S /96 cont./
175 security. It took until 1860 to catch sight of a beginning of colonization, an attempt at penetration, supported by arms.

S Two large political groupings and a multitude of petty
SR states, both independent and vassal, divided the region.
175 On the one hand, the kingdom of Sine, peopled by
SR Sérère, was established to the west, on the right bank of the
631 Saloum, from the ocean to a distance of 20 kilometers from Kaolack.

Neighboring the latter, surrounding Kaolack and extending to the east up to Kaffrine, going north to Kael, and planting its roots to the south of the Saloum River as far as Rip, extended the kingdom of Saloum, peopled by Sérère, Toucouleur /Tukolor/, and Ouoloff /Wolof/.

On the right bank one found the vassal state of N'Doukoumane, subject to the king of Saloum, and the semi-independent state of Koungheul; on the left bank, the now independent, now vassal states of Pakalla and Mandack, Rip, Laghem, and Niombato.

SR Sine and Saloum had a very hierarchical political and
[643] administrative organization. The sovereign authority was held by the "Bour" or king. Powerful and respected, this great chief was surrounded by counselors or ministers with whose help he governed, administered justice, levied taxes, and declared war. It was this organization that we found upon our arrival in the region. It is very old, but the exact time at which it was established cannot be stated.

S It seems certain, however, that the country was originally
SR inhabited by the Sérère, who thus were the first inhabitants. A
173 fetishistic people, they are related /97/, according to their
[144] morphological characteristics, to the Lébou of the peninsula of Cape Verde.

At an undetermined time, the Mandingue /Mandingo/, coming from N'Gabou (Portuguese Guinea), crossed the Gambia, occupied Coular, crossed the Saloum, and overran Sine, capturing M'Bissel, the capital of the Sérère.

Conquered, the latter offered their submission. In con-
SR trast to the other races, they stayed on their ancestral land
[563] without emigrating. The Mandingue invasion did not concern